A Theology of Missional Leadership in the Book of Revelation

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DISSERTATION NOTICES

Bang, S. (2016). *Developing leaders for effective cross-cultural Christian leadership in East Asian context.* **D.Min., Biola University.**

This study is about developing leaders for effective cross-cultural leadership practice in the East Asian cultural context toward the fulfillment of the Great Commission. This dissertation asks the question, Will the increased understanding of effective Christian leadership practices in the East Asian context increase the confidence of leaders who intend to lead within that culture? In order to discover the answer, leaders of Los Angeles United Church were invited to participate in a training seminar which focused on strengthening theological understanding of Christian leadership and raising anthropological awareness of culture in a leadership situation. The participants completed a pre-seminar and a post-seminar questionnaire in order to measure their progress. The analysis of the instrument confirmed the hypothesis to be true. Acquiring greater understanding of biblical leadership and cross-cultural dynamics in a leadership situation increased their motivation and confidence level necessary for effective cross-cultural leadership.

Bialowas, S. (2016). *The distinctive characteristics of religious leadership: A case study of the International Church of the Foursquare Gospel in the United States.* **Ph.D., Regent University.**

This dissertation is a qualitative case study of religious leadership in the International Church of the Foursquare Gospel, commonly known as the Foursquare Church, a Pentecostal Christian denomination with a network of over 1,600 churches in the United States. The study collected data on the distinctive characteristics of Foursquare leadership by examining four core documents of the church and the church's website and through semi-structured one-on-one interviews with eight prominent national leaders of the organization. The researcher then analyzed the data through a systematic coding process to identify key themes related to Foursquare leader characteristics and then categorized those themes. The study also compared the characteristics of Foursquare leadership to the characteristics of leadership as described by Weber's (1963) theory of religious leadership and with five contemporary leadership theories to discover similarities and differences. The results indicated that there were several similarities and differences between Foursquare leadership and leadership described by Weber's theory and the five contemporary leadership theories, showing that Foursquare leadership has much in common with leadership described by the five contemporary theories, but that only Weber's theory accounted for the distinctly religious characteristics of Foursquare leaders. The study concluded that religious leadership as practiced in the Foursquare Church is best described by a combination of the five contemporary theories and Weber's theory. Implications and limitations of the study as well as recommendations for future research regarding religious leadership are discussed.

Choi, G. (2016). *A theology of missional leadership in the book of Revelation.* **Ph.D., Andrews University.**

Leadership styles and the attendant behavior of mission practitioners and church administrators too often demonstrate leadership attitudes and practices that reflect cultural norms

while violating biblical norms. There is both historical and contemporary evidence of a predictable migration from leadership as service to leadership as control—such as autocracy, coercion, self-ascendancy, and dominance. These problems are found even in leadership within the faith community, thus violating biblical principles. This reality creates an urgent need for the application of biblical principles that transcend cultures and bring leadership practices into alignment with the character and behavior of the Trinity.

This study aims to establish a theology of missional leadership through motifs inherent in the cosmic conflict between God and Satan in the book of Revelation, examining the Apocalypse and comparing it with relevant leadership theories. The book of Revelation is a valid source of understanding pastoral and missional leadership because it contains leadership terminologies and concepts and reveals the Lamb's leadership behavior and exposes the counterfeit leadership of the Dragon.

Crawford, R. J. (2015). *A Trinity of love: The formation of Christian community in worship*. D.Min., Drew University.

This study employs narrative research methodology to explore Trinity Community Presbyterian Church's understanding of growing in love together as the Body of Christ in worship. The project assessed community formation in worship and used "Love Song for a Savior" by the band Jars of Clay as its organizing principle.

Consisting of two explorations, the project examined the impact dancing (Holy Motion) has on community and facilitated interaction with the cross as a symbol during the seasons of Lent and Easter. The paper evaluates the project and explores its implications for the practice of ministry. The gathered stories present the conclusion that both change and transformation occurred in three distinct ways: worship as play, worship as participation, and worship as community. It was discerned that transformation related to the following symbols: dancing, the communion table, the cross and death. Each of these symbols, often through challenge, invited a new way forward and the emergence of a new future. The stories highlight the need for further study regarding the impact that the role of dancing and interaction with symbols might have on the formation of Christian community in worship.

Hale, N. J. (2015). *Disabling the body of Christ: Toward a holistic ecclesiology of embodiment*. Ph.D., Boston University.

One of the primary images for ecclesiology is Paul's "body of Christ" metaphor. The contemporary church, as the body of Christ, sometimes struggles with its sense of identity and mission as well as with its relationship with other social bodies in the world. This study examines the intersection of ecclesiology, disability, embodiment, and liturgy and offers possibilities for developing a general ecclesiology of disability that is grounded in human embodiment and embodied practices. The interconnections between disability theory and theology are explored, followed by an examination of the "body of Christ" metaphor, starting with Paul's context and continuing with an analysis of how the metaphor functions linguistically. A review of the development and function of body theology in church history is presented, followed by consideration of how the